

Testimony for Rebecca Jones
Manchester, CT

9/13

Labor and Public Employee Committee on the topic of SB913 paid sick days

I believe the issue of paid sick days to be of vital importance and support the measure to require employers to provide this safeguard to employees. I have personally felt the impact of working at jobs that did not afford this very basic health protection. Recently I worked at for a direct mailing company that provided no paid sick time. It is one of those provisions I did not fully appreciate the importance of until it was gone.

When employees are denied the ability to care for themselves something very basic is being taken away from them. People should not be forced to choose between either recovering from an illness or being able to pay rent or buy groceries. In my job at the bank because we were not offered sick time many of us would come in sick. We would have to come in. When my coworkers and I would come in sick, illnesses which could have been short and un-medicated then turn into longer lingering viruses which can develop into sinus infections or worse. This is all at the employee's expense. At Data-mail we worked with the public and so employees who were sick would expose customers. It is horrible working sick but it is that much worse knowing that because you deal with the public you could be responsible for others getting sick.

Everyone in Connecticut who is working hard to pay their bills and be a productive member of society should have the opportunity to take the time they need to recover from an illness without the stress of lost wages. I hope you consider this legislation very carefully because there are many people who need this safeguard.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Jones